Objectives of setting up of IIMs

753. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the objectives and original intent in setting up the Indian Institutes of Management at various cities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the IIMs are largely catering to MNCs;

(c) the steps to be taken by Government to review the utility of these institutions; and

(d) the steps proposed to change the goals, objectives and orientations of IIMs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Broadly the Indian Institute of Management (IIMs) were set up with the objectives of imparting high quality management education and training, conducting research and providing consultancy services in the field of management to various sectors of the Indian economy. These are the premier educational institutions catering to the development of the nation's managerial manpower. Various placement agencies both from private as well as public sector visit these institutes every year to select the candidates from amongst the IIM students to meet their requirements. IIMs do not encourage their students to take up any particular type of work. The students are free to take up a job of their choice. The alumni of the IIMs have distinguished themselves in all sectors, not just with MNCs. To meet the demand, the Government has suggested the IIMs to create more opportunities for students in the country by increasing intake capacity, creation of additional infrastructure and introduction of new courses. Over the years the IIMs have developed their own brand image and there is no question of changing the goals, objectives and orientation of these Institutes.

Legislation for foreign universities

754. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring in a legislation to regulate foreign universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such universities would be amenable to regulation of UGC; and

(d) how far this would help to ensure the quality of the courses that would be conducted by these universities in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government intends to provide a regulatory framework in regard to foreign education providers, consistent with the national policy on education.

Statistics of drop-outs

755. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintain any statistics of the rate of drop-out among the school going children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to have some special time-bound programme to bring down the level of drop-outs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 2003-04. drop-out rate for the country as a whole for Classes I-IV, Classes I-VIII and Classes I-X was 31.5%, 52.3% and 62.7% respectively.

(c) A multi pronged approach has been adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of primary and upper primary schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, introduction of teaching practices that make classrooms more joyful and attractive, regular academic